

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (canceled)

3. **(Currently amended)** A pants-type disposable wearing article, comprising:

a longitudinal direction,

a waist-surrounding direction orthogonal to said longitudinal direction,

a chassis defining a front waist region, a rear waist region, a crotch region extending in said longitudinal direction between said front and rear waist regions, an elasticized waist-hole, and a pair of elasticized leg-holes,

an absorbent structure extending on an inner surface of said chassis between said front and rear waist regions, and

a plurality of auxiliary elastic members secured to said chassis in a stretched state and extending in said waist surrounding direction so as to cross said absorbent structure in at least one of said front and rear waist regions, each of said auxiliary elastic members having, in said waist surrounding direction, opposite end portions and a middle portion located between said opposite end portions,

said opposite end portions being secured to said chassis in vicinities of transversely opposite side edges of the one of said front and rear waist regions while said middle portion being free of direct securement to said chassis in the one of said front and rear waist regions,

wherein

said chassis comprises an outer sheet and an inner sheet joined at a plurality of joining sites; and

wherein said joining sites are distributed at least in an area underlying said absorbent structure in the one of said front and rear waist regions, are spaced one from another by a given space in said longitudinal direction, and are located between the middle portions of said auxiliary elastic members wherein said plurality of auxiliary elastic members are interposed between said outer and inner sheets, and

said plurality of joining sites are uniformly distributed at least in an area of said absorbent structure in the one of front and rear waist regions, are spaced one from another by given space in said longitudinal direction and are located between the middle portions of said auxiliary elastic members.

4. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 3, wherein said plurality of joining sites are distributed in a vicinity of transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure.

5. (Previously presented) A pants-type disposable wearing article having a longitudinal direction, a waist-surrounding direction orthogonal to said longitudinal direction, a front waist region, a rear waist region, a crotch region, an elasticized waist-hole and a pair of elasticized leg-holes, said article comprising a chassis and an absorbent structure extending on an inner surface of said chassis between said front and rear waist regions, and a plurality of auxiliary elastic members secured to said chassis in a stretched state in said waist surrounding direction so as to cross said absorbent structure in at least one of said front and rear waist regions, said article further comprising:

said plurality of auxiliary elastic members having opposite end portions and a middle portions in said waist surrounding direction, said opposite end portions being secured to said chassis in vicinities of opposite side edges of the one of said front and rear waist regions while said middle portion being free to said chassis in the one of said front and rear waist regions

wherein a length of said auxiliary elastic members in the waist-surrounding direction as measured in a contracted state thereof is substantially equal to a corresponding length of the absorbent structure in the one of said front and rear waist regions.

6. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 16, further comprising, in the one of said front and rear waist regions, a picture on said chassis in an area underlying said absorbent structure.

7. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 3, wherein said absorbent structure comprises

a liquid-pervious inner sheet adapted to face a wearer's body,

a substantially liquid-impervious outer sheet disposed on the inner surface of said chassis, and

a liquid-absorbent core disposed between said liquid-pervious inner sheet and said substantially liquid-impervious outer sheet.

8. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 3, wherein said absorbent structure comprises

a liquid-pervious inner sheet, and

a liquid-absorbent core having a top surface thereof covered with said liquid-pervious inner sheet and a back surface thereof covered with said chassis.

9. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 3, wherein said front and rear waist regions of said chassis are permanently joined to each other at the transversely opposite side edges thereof to define said elasticized waist-hole and elasticized leg-holes.

10. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 3, further comprising a pair of leakage-barrier flaps that extend along transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure.

11. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 3, wherein a length of said auxiliary elastic members in the waist-surrounding direction as measured in a contracted, unstretched state thereof is equal to a corresponding length of the absorbent structure in the one of said front and rear waist regions.

12. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 3, wherein a length of said auxiliary elastic members in the waist-surrounding direction as measured in a contracted, unstretched state thereof is greater than a corresponding length of the absorbent structure in the one of said front and rear waist regions by 1-5 mm.

13. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 3, wherein
each of said auxiliary elastic members is positioned between said inner and outer sheets;

the middle portion of each of said auxiliary elastic members connects the opposite end portions of said auxiliary elastic member, and extends across an entire width of said absorbent structure in the waist-surrounding direction from one of transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure to the other; and

an entire section of said middle portion which is located between the transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure is directly bonded neither to the inner sheet nor to the outer sheet.

14. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 13, wherein said joining sites are distributed between every pair of adjacent said auxiliary elastic members and between the transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure.

15. (Previously presented) The article of claim 14, wherein said joining sites are arranged only along and in vicinities of the transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure.

16. (Previously presented) The article of claim 14, wherein said joining sites define limits of displacement of the middle portions of said auxiliary elastic members in the longitudinal direction, without affecting contractibility of said middle portions in the waist-surrounding direction.

17. (Previously presented) The article of claim 3, wherein each of said auxiliary elastic members is entirely free of direct attachment to said chassis except at the opposite end portions of said auxiliary elastic member.

18. (Previously presented) The article of claim 6, wherein the middle portions of some of said auxiliary elastic members underlie and extend across said picture without causing gathers to be formed in the area of said chassis, thereby preventing the picture in said area from being distorted.

19. **(Currently amended)** The article of claim ~~[[19]]~~ **18**, wherein all said auxiliary elastic members are disposed between and spaced in the longitudinal direction from said elasticized waist hole and said elasticized leg holes.

20. (Previously presented) The article of claim 16, wherein an area of said chassis, which underlies said absorbent structure and across which said auxiliary elastic members extend, are substantially free of gathers.

21. (Previously presented) The article of claim 16, wherein some of the joining sites are disposed between the middle portion of a topmost one of the auxiliary elastic members and a longitudinal end of the absorbent structure in said at least one of said front and rear waist regions so as to prevent the middle portions of the topmost auxiliary elastic member from moving in the longitudinal direction beyond said longitudinal end of the absorbent structure;

the topmost auxiliary elastic member being closest to the waist-hole among all said auxiliary elastic members.

22. (**New**) The article of claim 3, wherein the joining sites are each in the form of a dot and comprise first joining sites arranged in the longitudinal direction in a middle zone of the absorbent structure, second joining sites arranged in the longitudinal direction on both sides of the first joining sites and third joining sites arranged in the longitudinal direction in the vicinity of the transversely opposite side edges of the absorbent structure.